

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 11, 12, 16, and 17, as amended, are pending herein, with non-elected claims 2 and 11 being withdrawn from further consideration. Specifically, claim 7 has been amended to independent form and contains the limitations of intervening claims 4-6.

All claims, other than withdrawn claims 2 and 11, stand rejected as obvious over the newly cited patent to Hahn No. 4,819,770 in view of the previously cited reference to Rothschild No. EP 0165190.

The Examiner contends that Hahn discloses a position adjustment mechanism which uses pressurized fluid for displacing cylindrical portions relative to each other. The Examiner acknowledges that Hahn does not teach three detents on one cylindrical portion and three removable members on the other cylindrical member, the detents and members being equally spaced about the cylindrical portions. However, the Examiner contends that Rothschild teaches a position adjustment mechanism including cylindrical portions having a detent and member, respectively, and that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to provide the Hahn device with detents and members on respective cylindrical portions and it would have further been obvious to provide three detents and members equally spaced around the first and second cylindrical portions.

Hahn teaches a hydraulic control device for dock levelling apparatus. It is designed to control the rate of relative movement between an extension plate 11 and a dockboard 12. See column 3, lines 25-34 and column 6, lines 17-20.

Rothschild teaches an extensible support device for furniture. It utilizes a rotary cam system 3 that cooperates with a pawl 2 to control the relative position of male and female telescopic elements. Applicant courteously contends that there is no suggestion or teaching in either Rothschild or Hahn for combining the two devices. They are from

different arts and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to adapt either device to accommodate the other.

Moreover, Rothschild's mechanism is fundamentally different from that of the claimed invention. In the claimed invention, which is directed to the embodiment of Fig. 4, an inner cylindrical portion 201 has three sets of grooves formed in the outer surface thereof to define cam circuits 203 having detents 204 and 205 arranged therein. The outer cylindrical portion has three pegs 202 extending inwardly therefrom for engaging the cam circuits, respectively. Hydraulic fluid is supplied to or removed from the interior of the mechanism to raise and lower the outer cylindrical portion with respect to the inner portion which enables the pegs to track within the grooves and be displaced between the upper and lower detents to support an article connected with the mechanism, such as a pool table at different heights.

In Rothschild, a cam follower circuit 3 is provided only on one side of the displacement mechanism. The other side of the mechanism includes a holding means consisting of one or more abutment surfaces formed by recesses 9 on the periphery of the male part and projection elements 8 on the female part. That is, Rothschild uses the cam follower circuit to guide the movement of the male and female parts during displacement but uses a separate support system for retaining the parts in different vertical orientations. This is completely different from the claimed invention.

Each independent claim of the subject application specifically recites the three detents and members spaced around the cylindrical portions to both guide and support the portions in different vertical orientations. Amended claim 7 further specifies that the detents are part of grooves arranged on the first cylindrical portion and the members are on the second cylindrical portion, with the members engaging the grooves and detents to move within circuits on the first cylindrical portion. With hydraulic actuation, the position adjustment mechanism of the claimed invention is suitable for use with heavy furniture such as a pool table, a piano, or the like. The load of the article being

supported is evenly distributed about the circumference of the mechanism. In Rothschild, there is no apparatus for displacing the male and female members relative to one another, so presumably displacement is done manually. This renders Rothschild incapable for use in supporting heavy articles as they can not normally be lifted manually. Moreover, because the load forces are not evenly distributed about Rothschild's device, it is further unsuitable for heavy articles as the load would be disproportionately arranged on one side of the male and female members leading to instability and limiting the amount of load which can be supported.

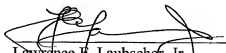
There is no suggestion of modifying Rothschild to be operated hydraulically and in fact Rothschild's structure does not lend itself to such modification as explained in the Remarks portion of the amendment filed March 23, 2009 which are incorporated herein by reference. Thus, the combined teachings of Hahn and Rothschild would not be obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art. Even if the teachings of these references were to be combined, they still do not teach or suggest all elements of the claimed invention.

Allowance of claims 1, 3-9, 12, 16, and 17 is courteously solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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